

What Features of Informational Texts Do Students Need to Recognize, Understand, and Use?

LAYOUT FEATURES

- table of contents
- index
- glossary
- headings & subheadings
- bold, colored, or italicized print
- charts, diagrams, maps, drawings, and other forms of visual literacy
- photographs
- captions, labels, and continuous text

LANGUAGE FEATURES

- language choices and text organization
- specialized language
- nonfiction language structures cause/effect
problem/solution
compare/contrast
description sequence
- organization of content

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

- how to quickly and efficiently glean information and make decisions about what to read
- why authors use these to highlight text
- how to access and interpret the information in concert with written text
- how to look for detail, draw inferences, and connect with written information
- how to read and integrate this information

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

- how the author's purpose and subject matter affect these
- the different ways this is introduced and explained
- why authors choose to convey particular information through these structures and the language that often identifies their use
- how to recognize and use organizational patterns to predict and confirm